Prelude & Lament

- for trombone quartet

Tomas Friberg (2016 rev. 2020)

Setting: TTTB

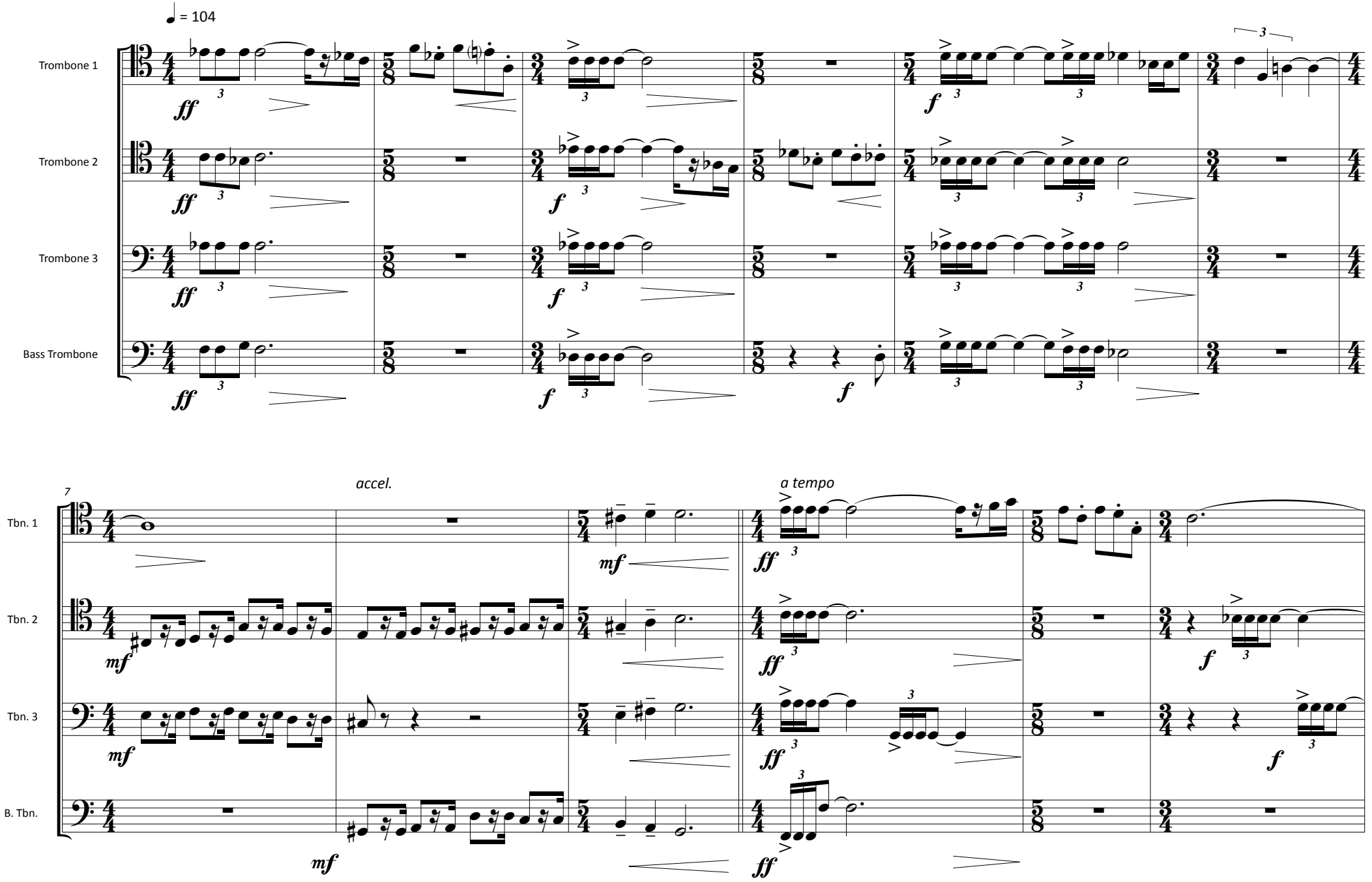
1. Prelude
2. Lament (For Betty)

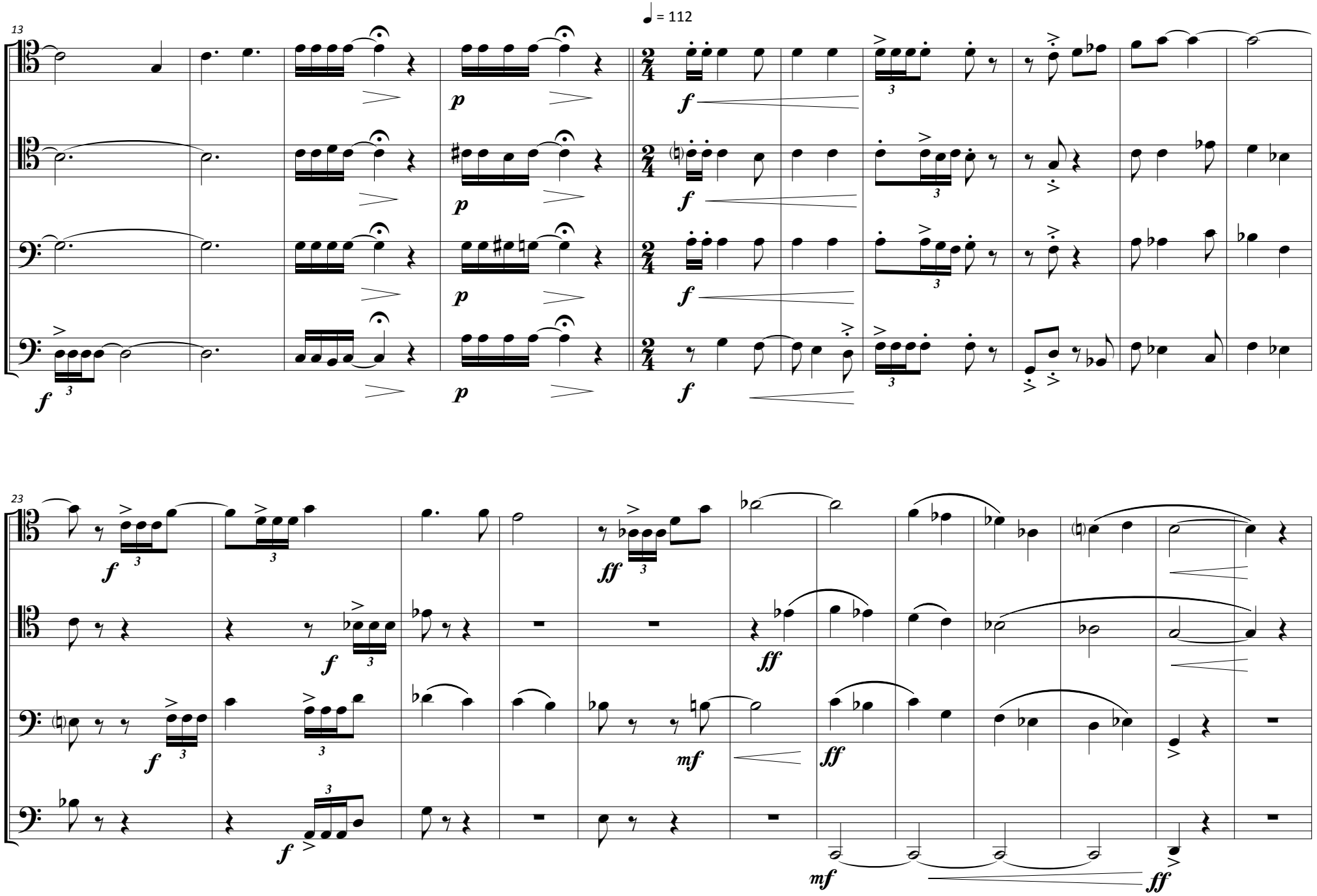
Durata: 8.30

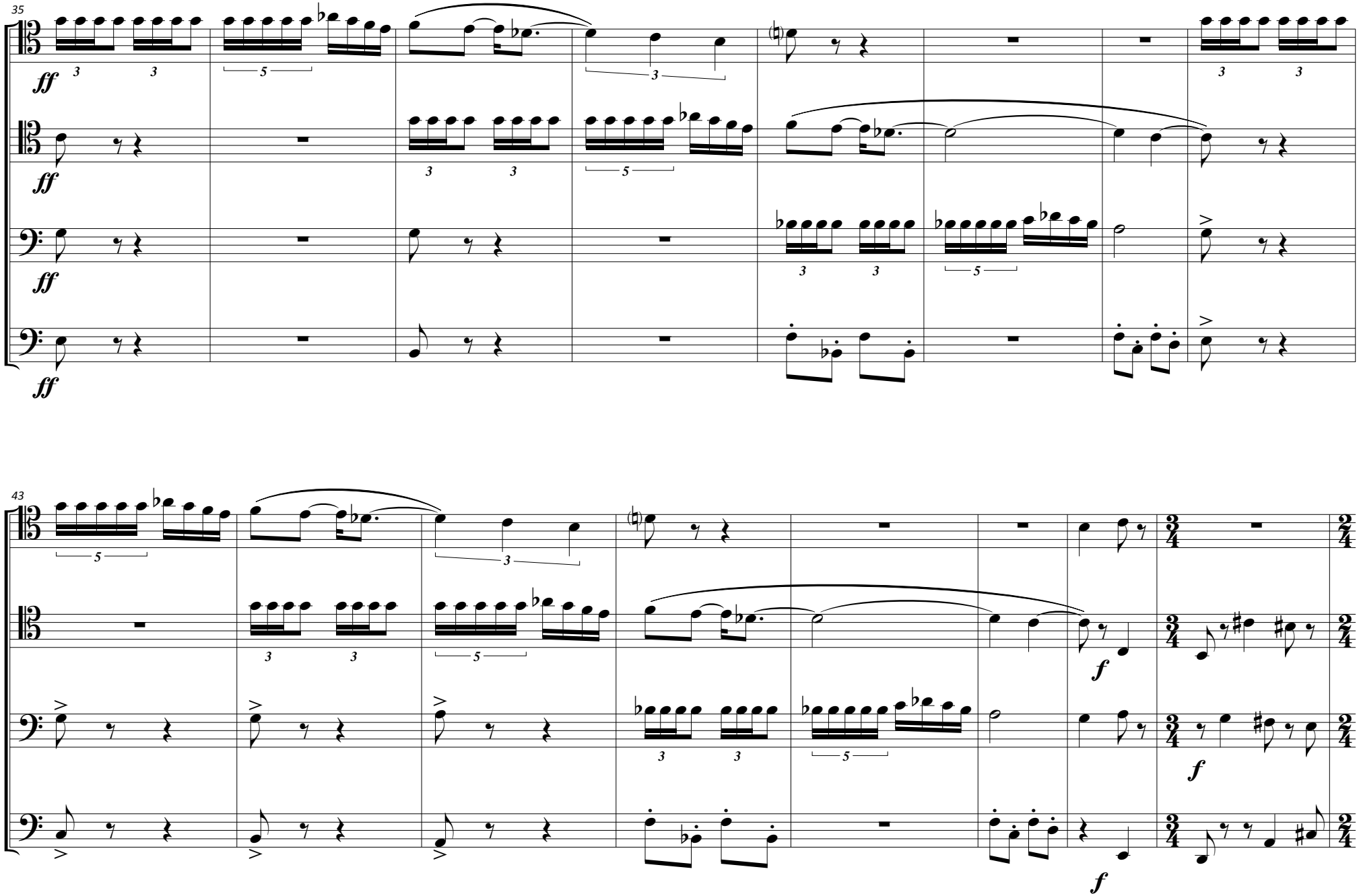
"The same old story. A 34 year old spinster, Betty Torkelsen working as a housekeeper in Alvestad, killed herself with poison on the 17th [Feb. 1886]. The reason was the sad, but so ordinary desperation due to the causes of seduction. The poison was the equally common substance phosphorus."

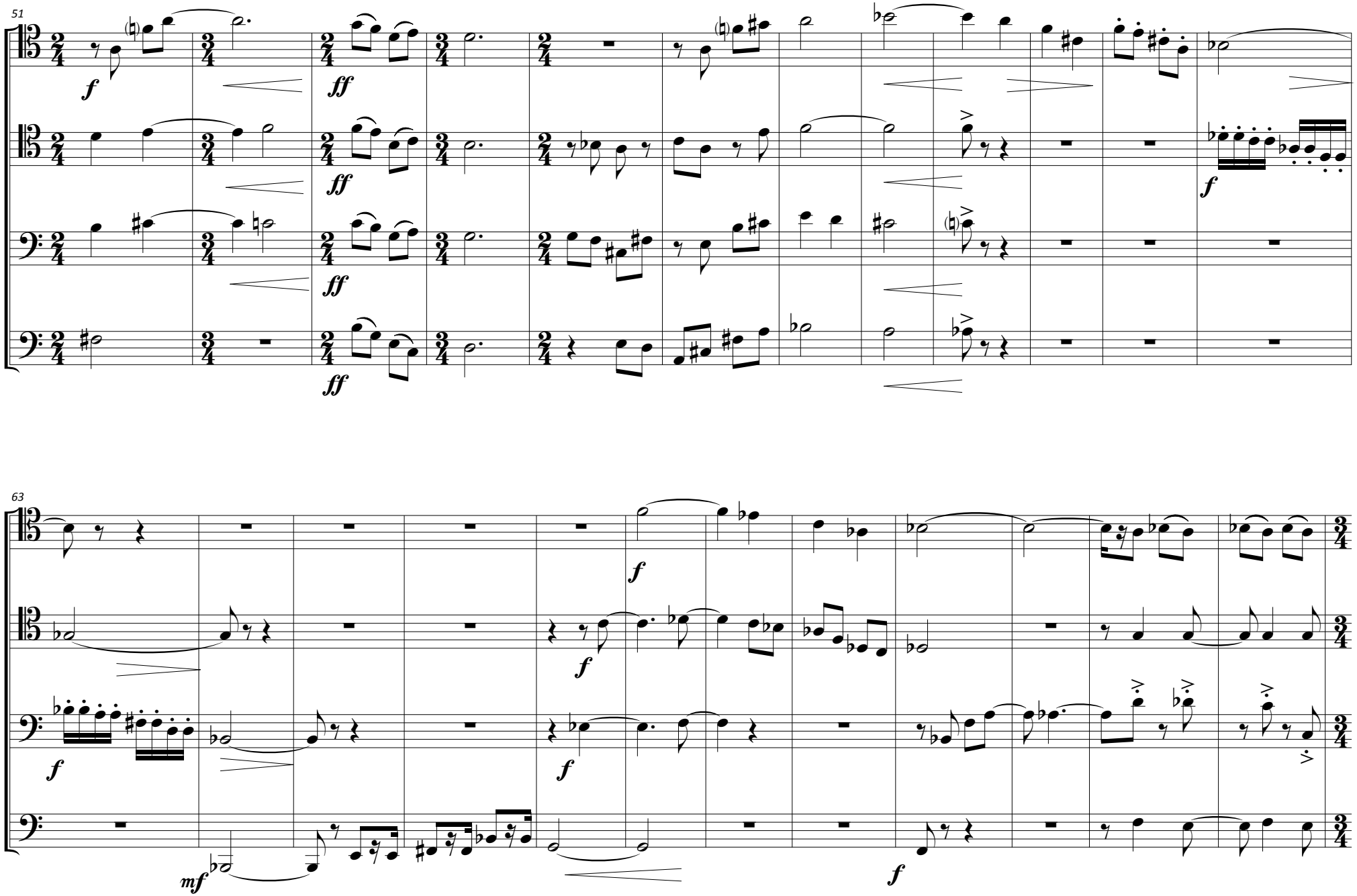
I found this short news item by accident in an old 19th century newspaper. I was struck by the laconic tone and the mundanity of the subject.
I later found out that phosphorous poisoning was a very common suicide methods among 19th-century women.
Phosphorous was scraped from matches and ingested but the intent was not suicide but to cause a spontaneous abortion. Death was just an all to common by-product of the process. The Lament is for Betty and for all women who died due to unwanted pregnancies.

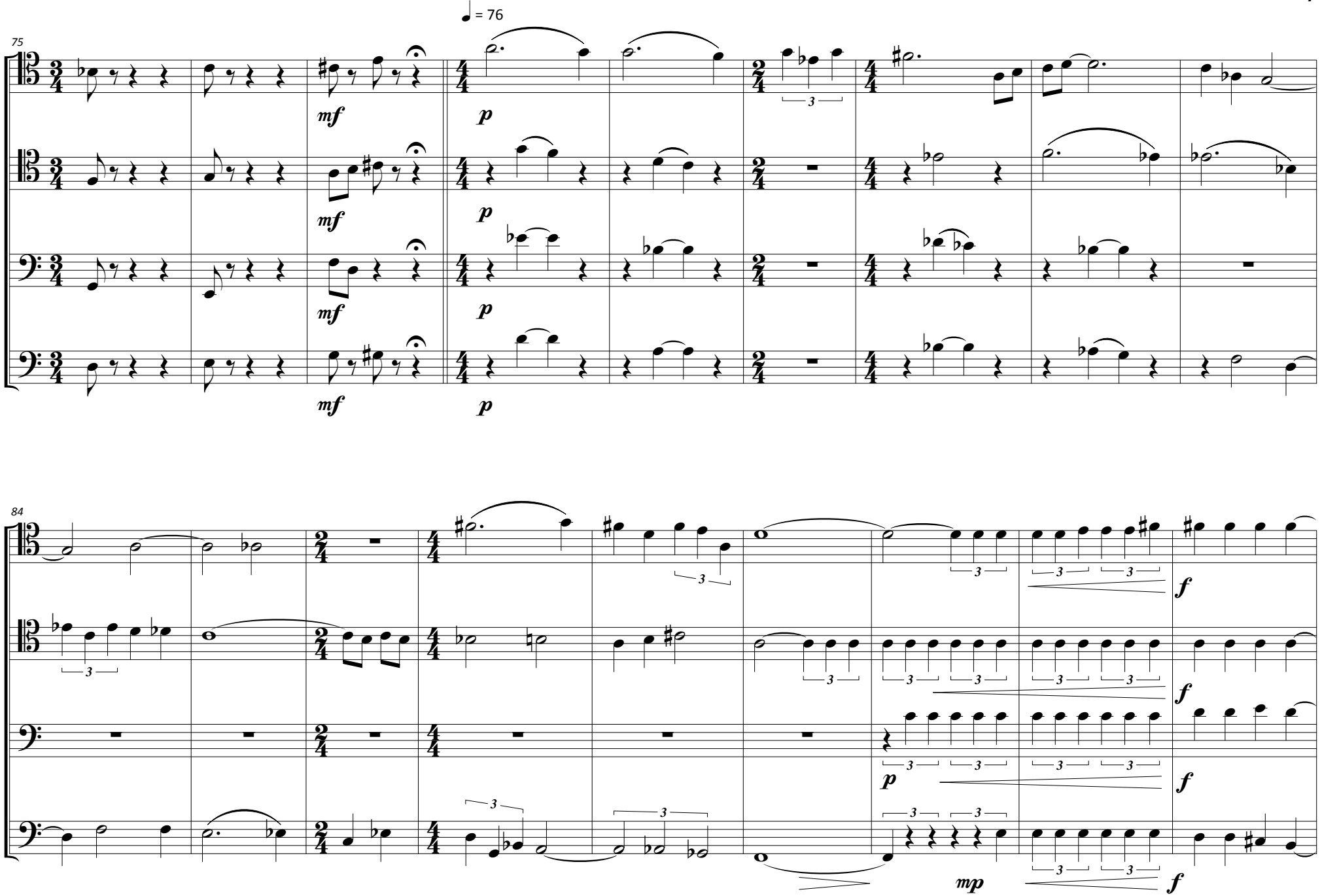
Prelude

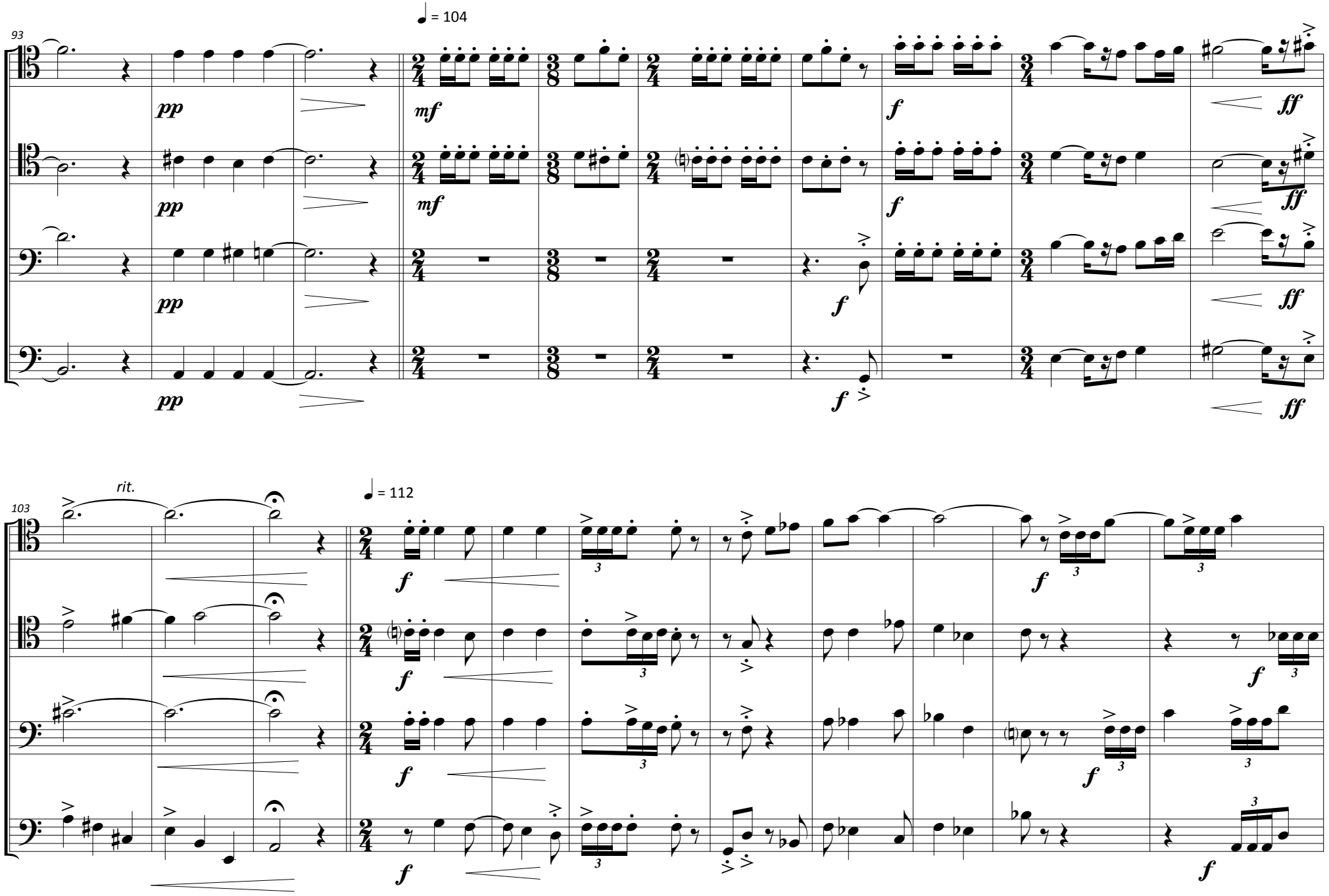

♩ = 104
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Bass Trombone
ff
f
7
accel.
a tempo
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
mf
ff
f

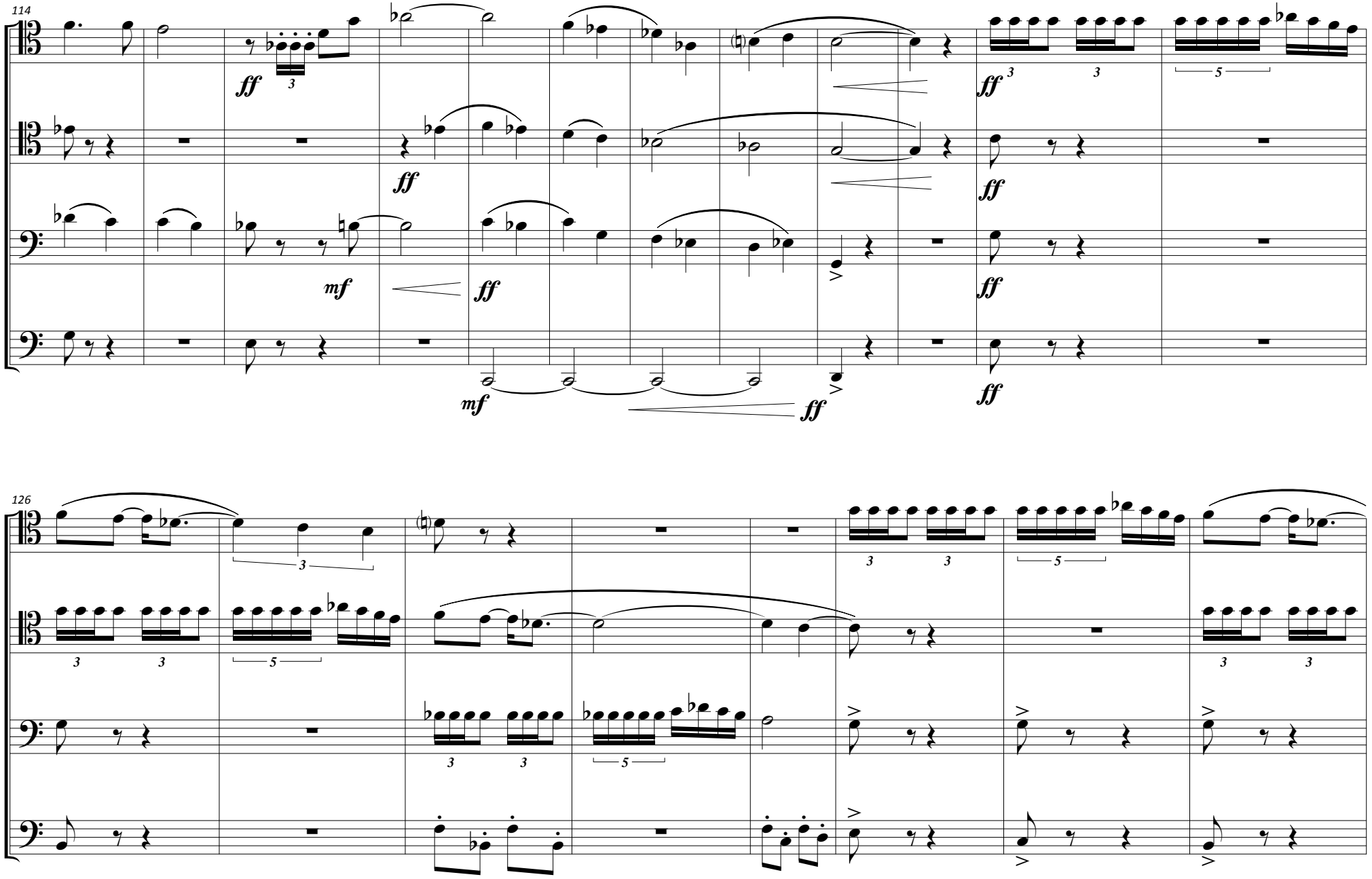

13
♩ = 112
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
23

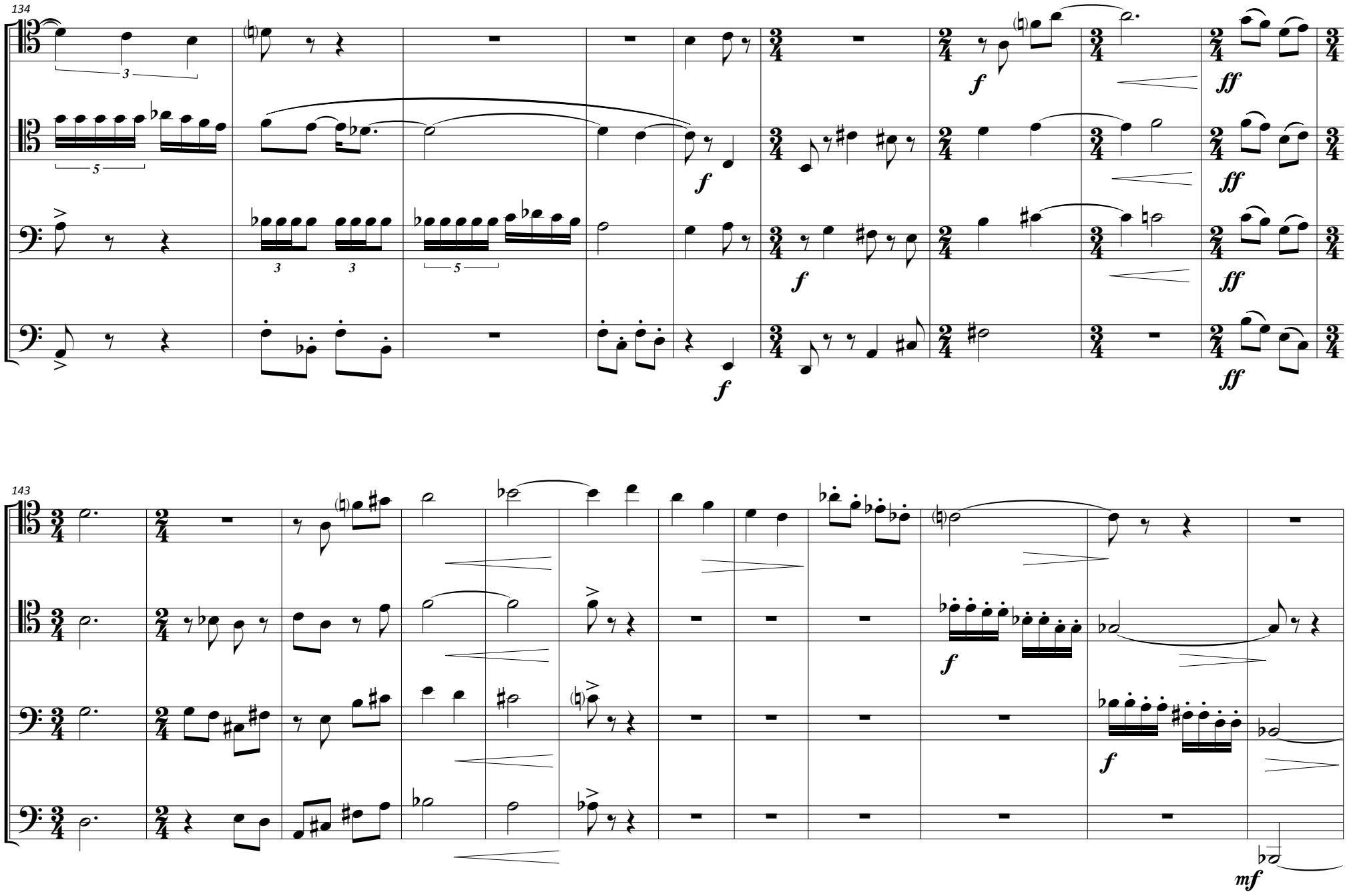

35
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
ff
43
f

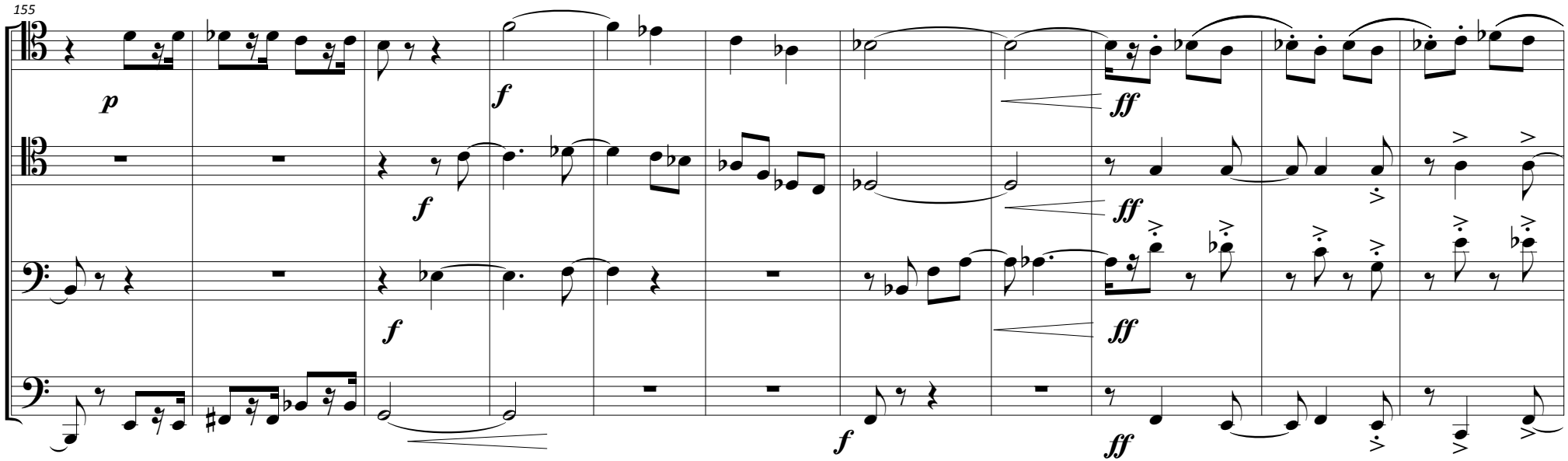

51
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
63
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.

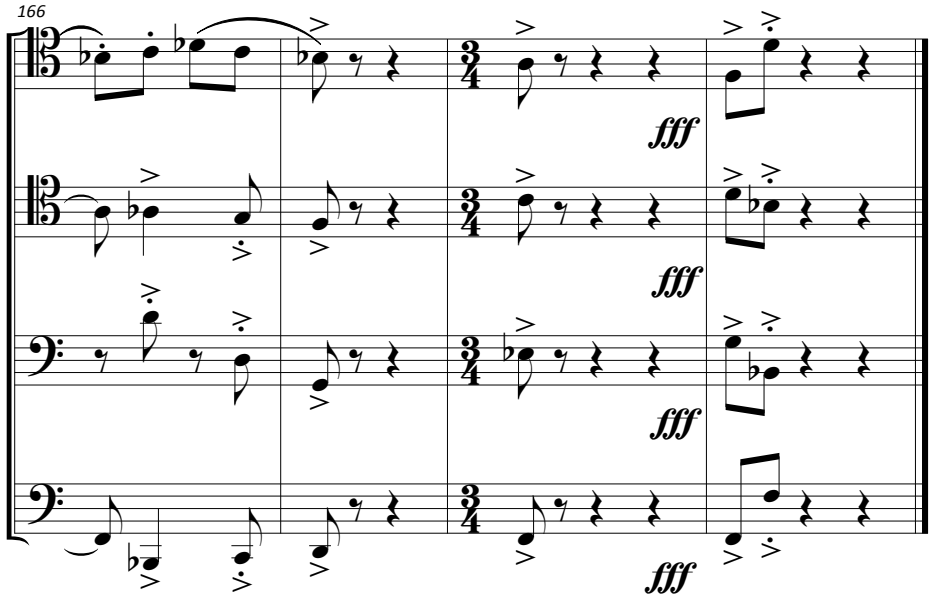

♩ = 76
75
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
mf
p
84
f
mp


93
♩ = 104
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
pp
mf
f
ff
rit.
103
♩ = 112


114
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
126
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.

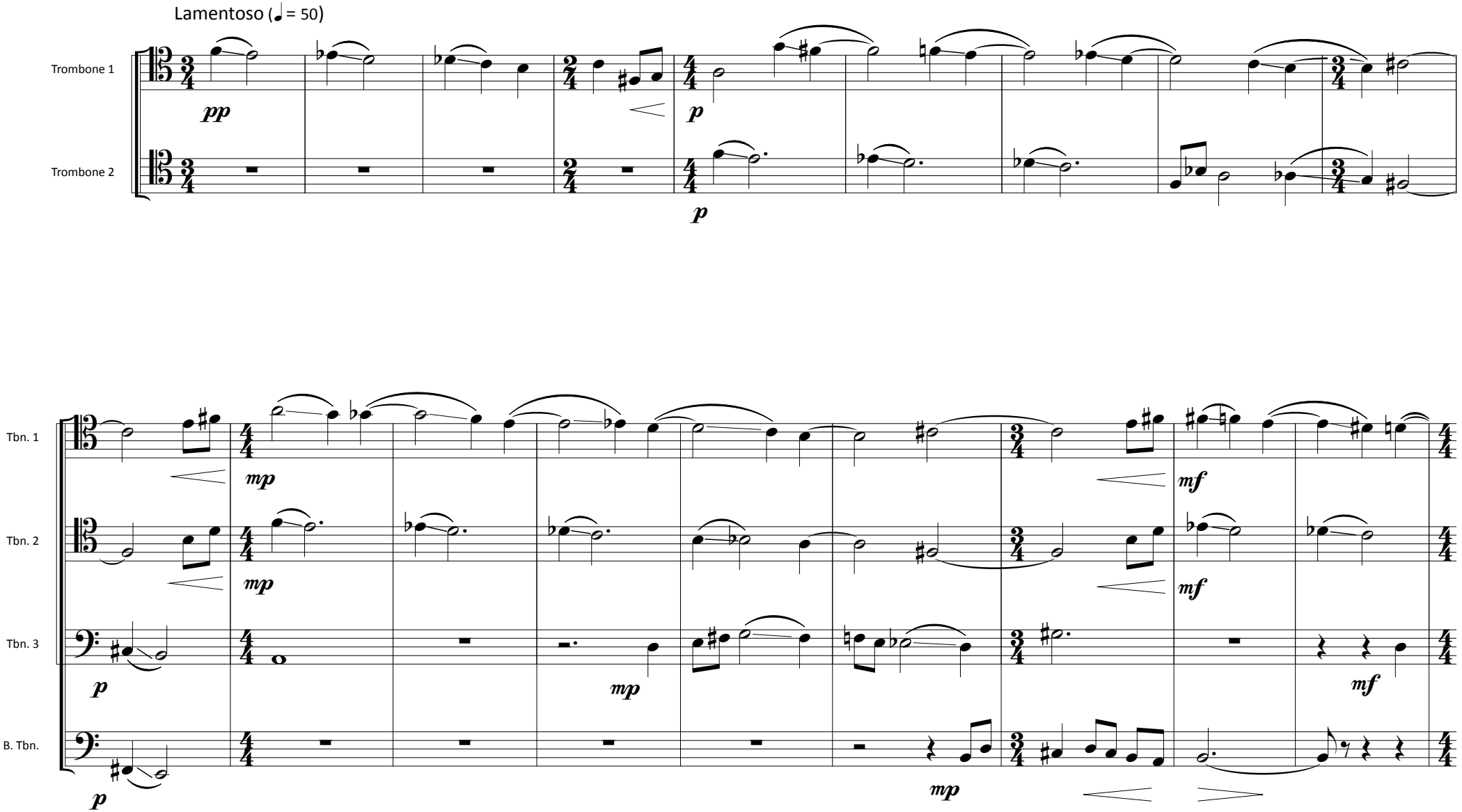

134
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
f
ff
143
mf

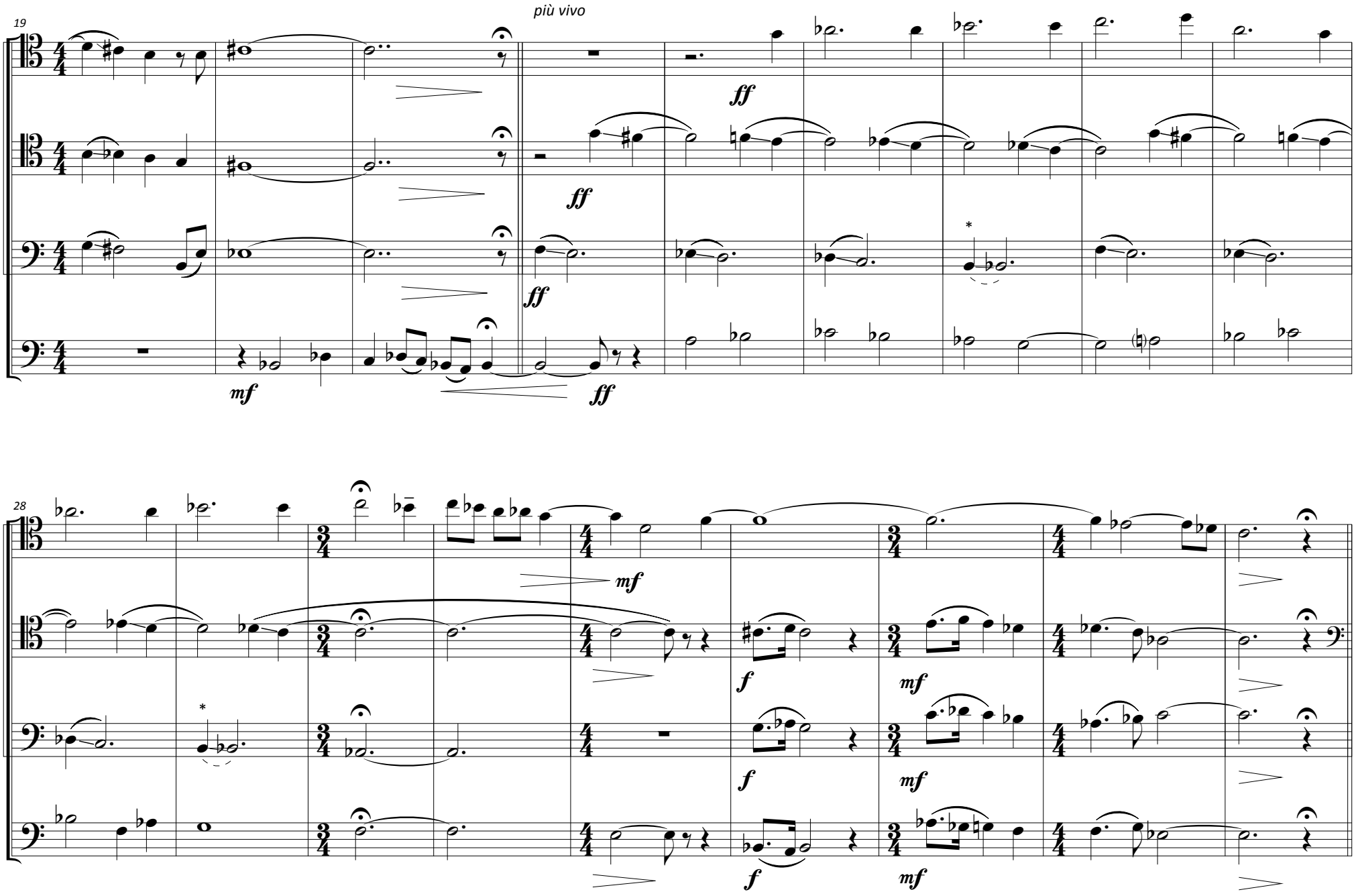

155
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
p
f
ff

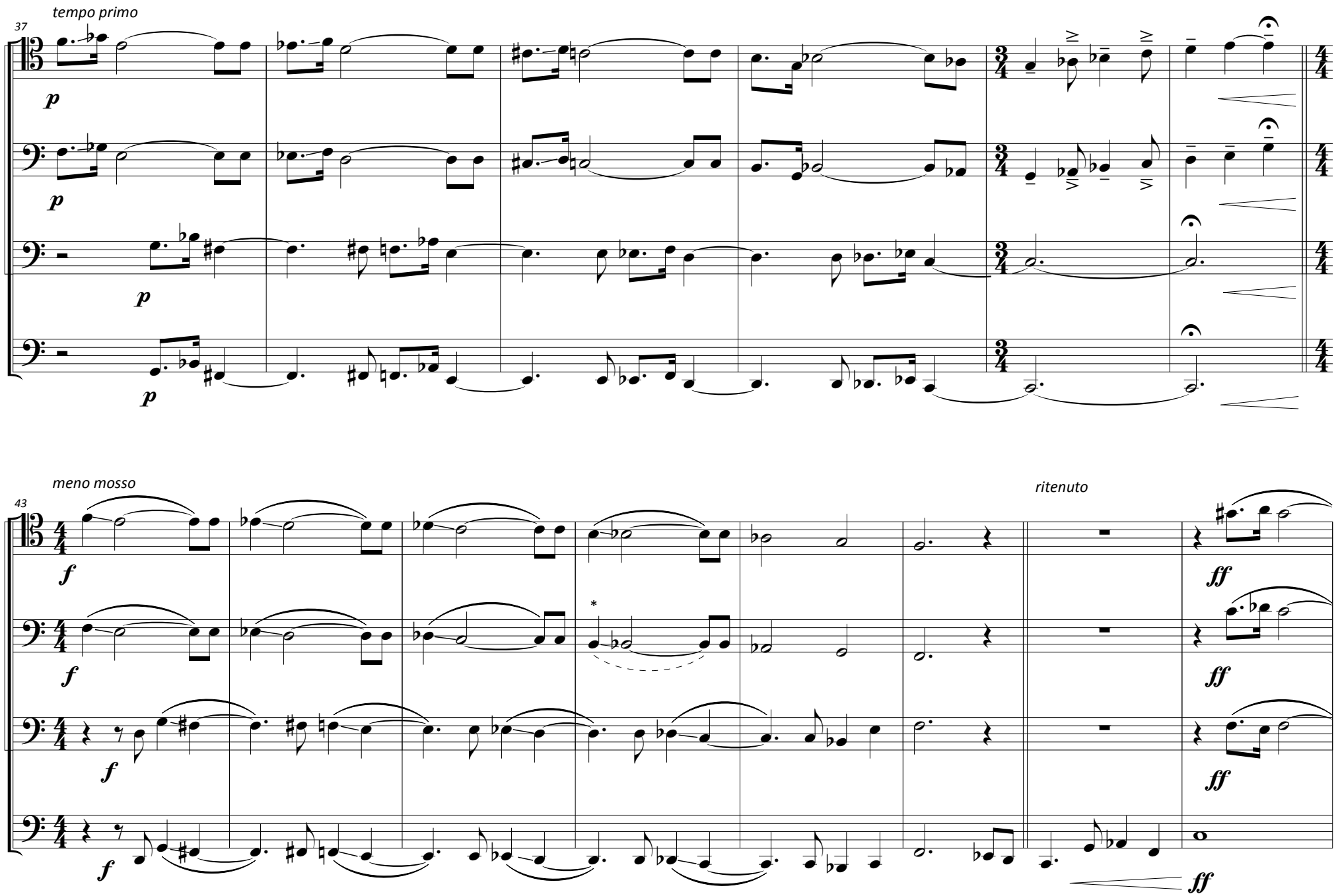

166
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
fff

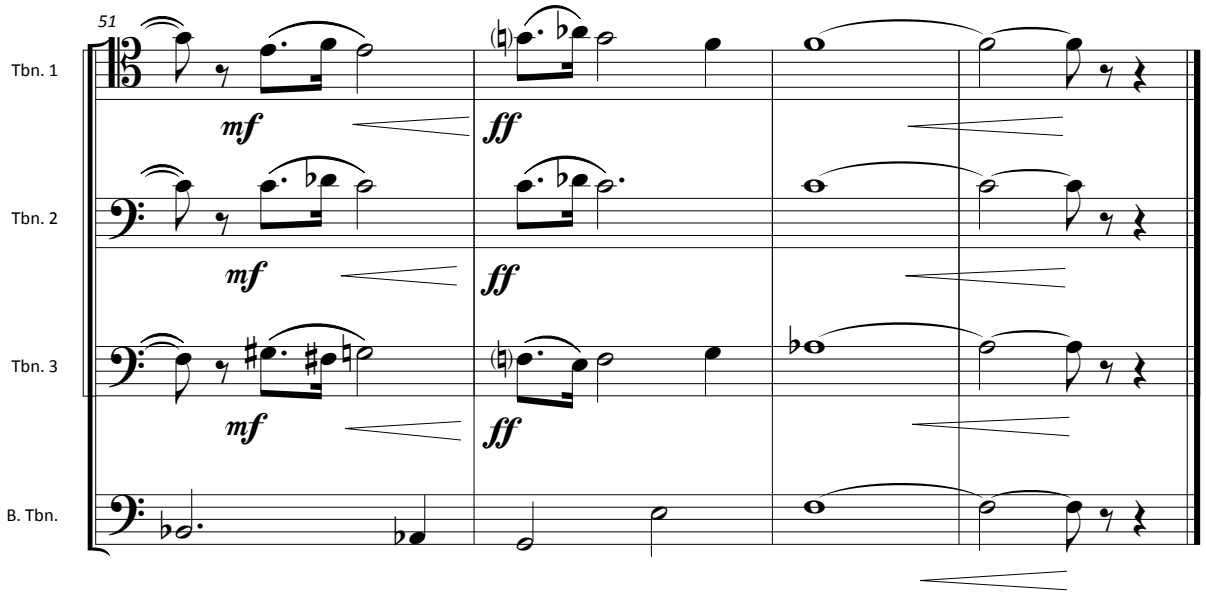
Lament

for Betty




più vivo
19
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
28
*
* gliss with F attachment only - else omit


tempo primo
37
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
p
meno mosso
43
f
*
ritenuto
ff


51
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
mf
ff
mf
ff
mf
ff